

Funding Sources: Mass. Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Stow Community Chest, Stow Cultural Council, Stow Friends of the COA, Stow Lions Club and the Stow Women's Club.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Chaisson
Ruth Delmonico, Secretary
Kristen Donovan, Chair
Alice Olsen
Gus Stathis
Elizabeth Tobey
Newton Wesley, Vice Chair
Eleanor Beaudette, Associate
Brian Burke, Associate

William Byron, Associate
Nancy Chaisson, Associate
Rep. Kate Hogan, Associate
Josephine Langley, Associate

Alyson Toole, Executive Director
Sharon Funkhouser, Outreach & Volunteer
Coordinator
Suzanne Howley, Outreach Worker

CULTURAL COUNCIL

The Stow Cultural Council is dedicated to creating a closer-knit community in Stow by sponsoring and supporting activities in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences that bring the diverse elements of our community together for enjoyment and cultural enrichment. The SCC especially seeks to fund projects that bring together parts of the community that do not often interact in their day-to-day lives in order to foster understanding by experiencing events together, working on projects and sharing stories about Stow's history.

The Stow Cultural Council completed a successful year, receiving a total of \$5,325 in grants from the following sources: \$3,825 from the State Legislature through the Massachusetts Cultural Council; and \$1,500 from Town Meeting.

The council voted to grant funds to the following projects for 2011/2012 fiscal year:

- Nashoba Regional High School Friends of Drama: \$1,000 (Beauty and the Beast)
- Hale Middle School Play: \$900
- 2012 Arts Buffet Festival: \$500
- Stow West School Programs: \$525 (Stow Historical Society)
- Popular Music of the Gaslight Era: \$590 (Lewis Halprin)
- 2011/2012 Concert Season: \$250 (Acton Community Chorus)
- Lake Boon Water Carnival Music Boat: \$300 (Lake Boon Improvement Association)
- Summer Reading Program: \$1,050 (Randall Library)
- 2010-2011 Concert Season: \$1700 (Sounds of Stow)
- View of a Butterfly: \$350 (Eye of The Storm Equine Rescue)
- Stow Minutemen at the Bolton Fair: \$1,000 (The Bolton Fair, Inc.)
- Reading is Magic: \$375 (Edward L. Cope)
- 77th Regular Exhibition of Art and Craft: \$100 (The Fitchburg Art Museum)
- Rivers Edge Holiday concerts: \$300 (Hudson Area Arts Alliance)
- Jerry Atric-The Older I Get: \$350 (Steve Henderson)

The Stow Cultural Council encourages any Stow resident to apply for a grant for a project of his or her own imagination, or to sponsor an event by an area artist or performer, that will benefit the Stow community. Grant applications may be received at any time, but must be received no later than October 15, 2012 for the next granting cycle. For more information see the Cultural Council page on the town website, www.stow-ma.gov. Local Cultural Council's grants are to be considered a temporary aid to encourage groups to find added sources of funding. In particular, this year the state reduced funding and all Fieldstone funds have been expended.

Membership currently stands at five (5), which meets the Mass Cultural Council's minimum requirement of five members. Please note that several members' terms are up and the Council will be delighted to have new applicants. Members are Anne Draudt (publicist), Pat Mullen (Treasurer), Phyllis Fitzsimmons-Luce, Nancy Maldari, and Ann Deluty (chair). Bob Glorioso, Dorothy Sonnichsen and Betsy Stepp are members emeritus.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann L Deluty, Chair
Anne Draudt
Phyllis Fitzsimmons-Luce
Nancy Maldari
Patricia Mullen, Treasurer

Dorothy Sonnichsen
Robert Glorioso

Isabel Prokopovich, Assistant

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Department had a very busy year in 2011. With over 40 inches of snow in January alone, the rest of the winter brought us an unofficial total of 79 inches of snow, keeping our plow trucks very busy throughout the season. Snowplow crews were dispatched a total of 11 times and our salt spreading trucks were dispatched 55 times to deal with snow and ice conditions on roads.

Though the winter was rough we still managed to complete quite a bit of tree and brush work. Our crew took down 24 public shade trees along the roadsides, which were either dead or hazardous, and spent a total of about 4 weeks cutting low-hanging tree limbs and roadside brush. Aside from our scheduled brush and tree trimming, we had a few emergency situations, which kept us dealing with tree related work for quite a while. In August, Tropical Storm Irene damaged several public shade trees with its high winds, and gave us 10 days' worth of downed limbs and broken trees to clean up off of the public ways. Then there was the Halloween Snowstorm. Our crews were initially dispatched to plow snow, which quickly turned into just trying to keep roads open due to all the falling trees and tree limbs blocking the streets.

Several roads were still closed days after the storm as we worked with the Hudson Light and Power Department clearing trees which were entangled in power lines and lying in the road. I believe our close working relationship with Hudson Light and Power helped to restore power to residents as quickly and efficiently as could have been possible. We are very proud of the fact that both crews work so well together during emergency situations. Thirty-two working days